

News Release

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History of Community Service Recognized for DES Colleague *Receives Marine of the Year Award for community service*

PHOENIX – The sixth annual [Marine Week](#) will be held September 10-13 in Phoenix. Marine Week is an opportunity for the Marine Corps to build community, and showcase why the Marine Corps is the nation's expeditionary force in readiness. Throughout the week, the public will be invited to a series of events around the Valley. One of the most solemn events will be a memorial ceremony on September 11 at the Arizona National Memorial Cemetery. At this event, the Ira Hayes Detachment 002, Marine Corp League of Phoenix will be represented by David Yrigoyen, a Department of Economic Security colleague.

David is a member of the Ira Hayes Detachment 002, Marine Corp League of Phoenix, where he serves as Captain of the Color Guard. David joined the Marines at the age of 18 and spent four years on active duty, including a year in Vietnam. After leaving the Marines, David owned a successful business in Phoenix for 25 years until he decided to retire. He then returned to the workforce and serves in the DES Division of Developmental Disabilities.



DES Colleague David Yrigoyen holds his Marine of the Year Award.

David grew up believing in service to others, which was the reason why he joined the Marines, to serve his country. "I am proud of my service, both then and now," David explained. As Captain of the Color Guard, David leads his group of volunteers in flag presentations at parades, conventions, and military funerals. "Departed veterans, regardless of rank or branch are my brothers and sisters, they deserve to be shown that their service and memory were important," said David. "Color guards do not simply show up at the cemetery, present the flag and go home. From the moment the remains are released to the funeral home, a uniformed Marine stands watch over those remains. Until those remains are taken to the cemetery, there is a Marine present signifying that no Marine, no veteran, will be left behind or forgotten."

Last year, for his outstanding service to the community and the Marine Corp League, David was awarded the Marine Corp League, Marine of the Year honor.

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